Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W

-----030745 114164 /23-12

R 021513Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS TO SECSTATE 6791 INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA TO JOIN GATT

1. ACCORDING TO A SOURCE AT ICE (FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE, OFFICIAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN TRADE POLICY AND EXPORT PROMOTION), GOV HAS TAKEN DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO JOIN GATT. DECISION WAS REPORTEDLY MADE ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, BUT SOURCE DOES NOT EXPECT VENEZUELA FORMALLY TO BECOME MEMBER BEFORE 1979. NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISION HAS BEEN MADE PENDING CONCLUSION OF ICE STUDY ON IMPACT OF GATT MEMBERSHIP ON VENEZUELAN FOREIGN TRADE REGIME AND ISSUES TO BE NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO ENTRY.

2. WE WELCOME GOV'S DECISION AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP INSURE SMOOTH PROCESS OVER NEXT TWO YEARS CULMINATING IN GATT MEMBERSHIP. TOWARD THIS END, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON ISSUES TO BE NEGOTIATED, VALIDITY OF PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR ENTRY, AND ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE FORESEEN. FOR EXAMPLE, WILL VENEZUELAN COMMITMENTS TO ANDEAN PACT COMPLICATE MATTERS UNDULY? IS THERE SOMETHING THE VENEZUELANS COULD BE DOING IN THIS AREA NOW THAT WOULD FACILITATE NEGOTIATION OF AN EXCEPTION AT A LATER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DATE? ICE THINKING ON THIS ISSUE STILL VERY MUCH IN PRELIMINARY STAGE AND WE WILL PROBABLY HAVE OPPORTUNITIES DURING COMING MONTHS TO HAVE INPUT INTO THEIR DELIBERATIONS SHOULD WE DESIRE TO DO SO.
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Message Attributes

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